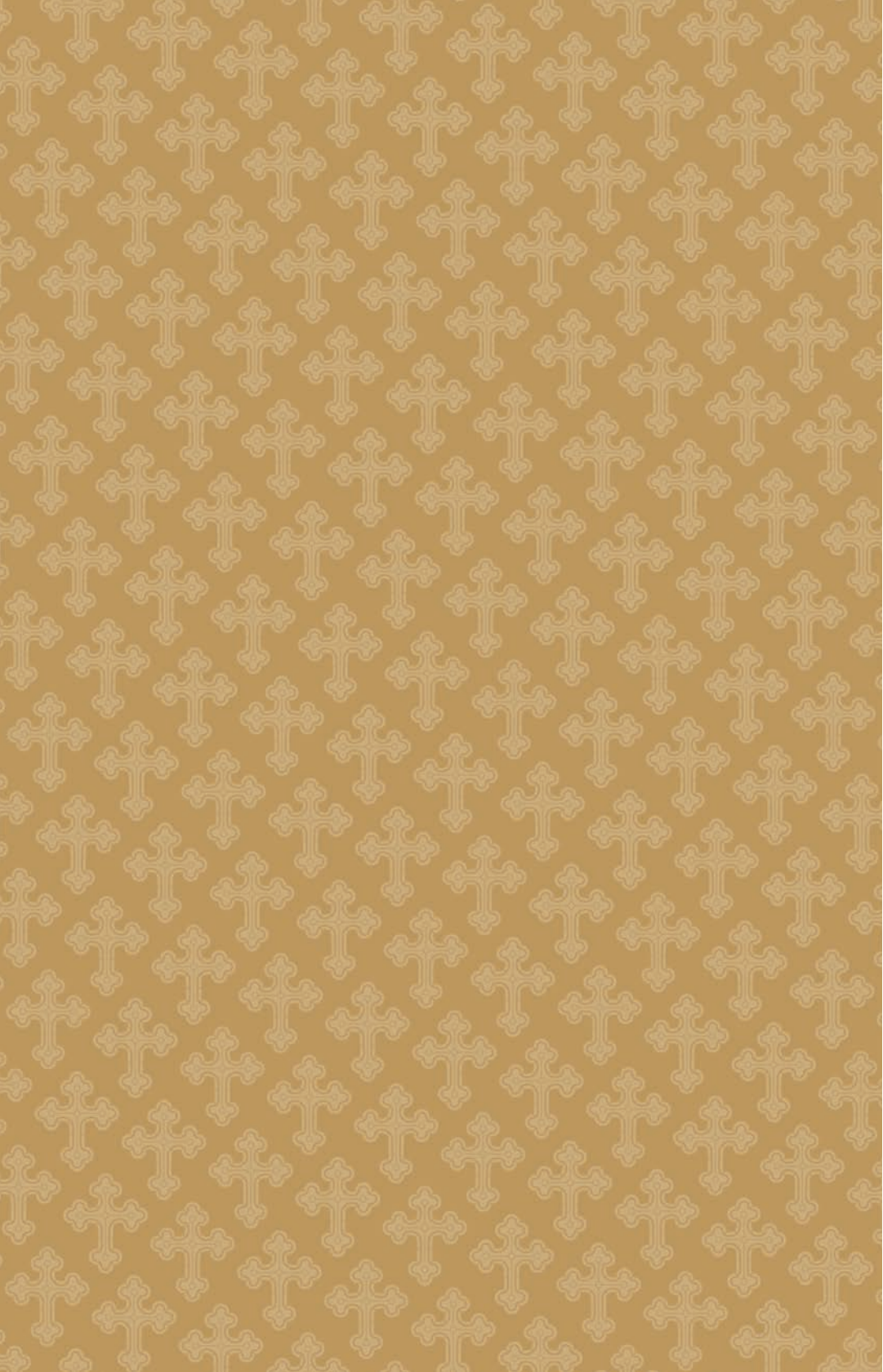




GENEVA SCHOOL *of* BOERNE

SENIOR THESIS PRESENTATIONS

CLASS *of* 2020



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The Geneva School of Boerne exists to provide a classical education with a biblical worldview to equip students for a lifetime of learning, service and leadership to the glory of Jesus Christ.



In light of this year's circumstances with the unprecedented school closure due to COVID-19, we are especially proud of the Class of 2020. They have demonstrated incredible mental and emotional fortitude as they continued to persevere in finishing the work entailed in a Senior Thesis project. In short, they lived out the stuff of commencement speech platitudes. We are deeply proud to call them ours and to send them out into this world to continue their Kingdom work.

GENEVA SENIOR THESIS PROGRAM

All Geneva students must successfully complete a Senior Thesis in order to graduate.

The project requires seniors to research and write a documented essay on a defensible thesis of the student's choosing. While thesis topics must be approved by the school administration, they do not necessarily reflect the values or beliefs of the school. The school conducts the Senior Thesis in order to move students toward the idealized individual reflected in the school's Portrait of a Graduate (included at the back of this book).

After completion of the written essay, students memorize a 20-minute speech in preparation for the Senior Thesis Presentation. Students present before an audience of faculty, students, parents and panelists and are challenged to do so with eloquence and winsomeness. Upon completion of the memorized speech, the invited panelists, conversant in the thesis topic, question the presenter upon points that have been raised, whereupon the presenter demonstrates competency in fielding the questions by "thinking on his feet."

The G. K. Chesterton Award is given each year to the outstanding Senior Thesis presenter. These students are eligible for consideration for the award based on their research, written work and presentation. This does not necessarily mean that the students under consideration have the top grades in the thesis class. Rather, they are nominated for this honor if they show an outstanding depth of analysis combined with the ability to present their thoughts in a winsome and persuasive manner. Whether they are Chesterton nominees or not, all of our seniors deserve our congratulations for tackling one of the most difficult and challenging tasks within academics.



PHILLIP JAMES ACKERMANN

Rated R For Ridiculous: Why The Motion Picture Association Is In Need Of Reform

In light of the rise in school shootings, I started researching in the summer to find the causes of teen violence. The news only attributed violent games. However, as I kept digging into research, papers and studies, I found the more pressing problem: the film industry. The more I researched, the more I realized that we need to stop this problem at its source — the Motion Picture Association.



JACOB AUSTIN ALLEN

God's Not Dead But Christian Film Is: A Call To The Church For Excellence In Filmmaking

I love Jesus. I also love bad movies. Why not put the two together? As entertaining as terrible films may be, they aren't what they should be. Christian movies are some of the worst at the box office, and in some cases, it's not even close. I believe film is a great way to spread the gospel, so why not make good Christian movies?

G. K. Chesterton Award Nominee



LUKE LAIDLEY BOWER

Tea Leaves For The 21st Century: Why Parents Shouldn't Let Their Children Participate In Aptitude Testing

My experience with aptitude tests was noticeably negative. I took multiple aptitude tests in order to ease the process of choosing a college major. When the tests seemed to be causing more harm than good, I realized that parents should know what they are getting into when signing their child up for one of these tests.



SETH CONNELLEY BOWER

It's Time To Pay The Piper: Why College Athletes Should Be Paid

I have always been interested in sports, and during my high school career started realizing the amount of work that student-athletes had to do. This made me interested in the debate on paying college athletes and I started to research this topic. I then found the reasons why college athletes should be paid and agreed with them.



WILLIAM MENEFEE BOWER

Keep Off The Grass: Why Texas Should Not Legalize Recreational Marijuana

I've heard a lot of my peers talk about how there are no negative consequences to using recreational marijuana. I wanted to find out if there was any truth to that statement. In my research, I have found that the arguments of my peers are far from the truth. I think this is a very relevant topic for my fellow Americans today.

G. K. Chesterton Award Nominee



MCLAIN DAVID BROCK

Behind The Screens: The Hidden Dangers Of Smartphone Use In Young Children

Last summer, I found myself spending too much unnecessary time on my phone. While the thought of cutting back screen time was on my mind, I noticed that no matter where I went, almost everyone around me had the same problem. I began to realize the profound impact the phone has on our lives. With further research, I was led to discover the deeper issues that come with these devices and was inspired to use my thesis to shine light on them.



HANSON ROBERT BROWN

Prices To Die For: Why Ethical Standards Should Be Mandatory When Pricing Prescription Insulin

Throughout my entire life, the topic at hand has impacted my close family every day. This is an issue that I believe is not highlighted enough and should be brought into the spotlight.



JOEL CALDERON

Get Out Of The Pot: The Case Against Specializing Early In Youth Sports

Sports have been a big part of my life. I see value in the life lessons they offer. When deciding on a topic, I wanted to focus on some aspect of youth sports. I realize that some kids do not have the positive outcomes that I have experienced, and found in my research that early specialization can interfere with the positive aspects that can come with youth sports participation.



SAMUEL CASON CARRAWAY

Space Debris: Littering The Final Frontier

Space has always fascinated me and orbital debris is a serious threat for the future of space. I look forward to seeing space missions to the moon or Mars, but with orbital debris in the way it might pose a challenge.



DAWSON JAMES CATE

The Heavens Declare And The Rocks Cry Out: What Creation Says About Its Creator

I have always been two things: a Christian and a scientist. I believe that God has made a world for us to explore and discover to learn more about Him. Creation leads us to the Creator. I realized in my research and through debates with others that all too often, those who believe in evolution often do so because they hold science as the ultimate truth, rather than God's word. I hope that my thesis holds the word of God above science, and lifts God high.



MADELINE MAURA CHANDLER

Shifting Sands Of VA Funding: Removing The Politics From Veterans' Healthcare

I saw that there needs to be change in Veterans' Healthcare. I have seen family, friends and teachers sacrifice their lives for the benefit of our country. Their service needs to be rewarded, yet adequate healthcare outside of the political realm is not the baseline. I've explored possibilities for solutions and I believe that I've narrowed those to a viable remedy for this widespread problem.



JACK CHRISTIAN CUPIT

Wrongly Dividing The People Of God: Why Dispensationalism Should Be Left Behind

Dispensationalism as a word is widely unknown among Christians. However, concepts such as the rapture or biblical literalism are much more prominent. I chose this topic so that I can talk about a somewhat unspoken problem that still affects the church. My hope for this thesis is that people might walk away either feeling more firm in their beliefs or with a desire to do further reading and learning.

G. K. Chesterton Award Nominee



EMMA HANNAH DE VRIES

Beware The High Road: Why The Legalization Of Recreational Marijuana Is Not Beneficial For The United States

I have always been against teen drug use. However, I had not thought about how legalizing something such as alcohol or marijuana can have such an impact on not only individuals, but on states as well. I had not realized how harmful marijuana actually is. I thought if alcohol is legal, why can't marijuana? Upon research, I realized I (and most people) do not actually know how harmful marijuana can be.



ABIGAIL KATHLEEN DEES

Learning For Lemmings: A Call To Break Out Of Bad Education Habits

I've seen a lot of my peers struggle with low self-esteem and the idea that they're dumb just because they don't perform as well academically as some of their classmates. I think there is a lot of pressure to be a good student, but everyone learns differently and has different aptitudes. It's unfair and even damaging to lump all students into a single learning method and then tell them that there is only one way to achieve success.



JULIA GRACE DENTON

Suffering In Silence: How Sexual Assault Cases Require Reform In America's Judicial System

In the sweep of the “Me Too” movement, sexually predatory acts have come to light possibly more than ever before. And yet, we have only scratched the surface of what violations lurk below the light of society’s justice system. I wanted to use my thesis project to explore why this discrepancy exists and uncover how we can do a better job of making our criminal court system better serve victims of sexual assault, therein helping to bring about more far reaching and lasting change.



ERIC ROBERT DREES

Cashing Out: The Case Against Privatized Currencies

Throughout my time in high school, I have looked for opportunities to take business courses. I saw my thesis as yet another opportunity to expose myself to the business world. I chose my topic, the detriments to the global economy of implementing privatized currency, because I enjoy learning about the subject and intend to pursue a finance major this coming fall.



LYDIA ANN DUPERIER

Redefining Marriage: The Fault With No-Fault Divorce

Our culture is constantly teaching us that marriage can easily be broken. The outcome of this is a generation that views relationships as just that: a relationship. Many do not take marriage with the weight it deserves, causing messy divorces all over the country. I chose the topic of no-fault divorce because I believe that this bill is a major component in the marriage decline. I hope that my thesis can help shine a light on the problem and save the meaning of marriage.



COLE AUTRY DUTTON

A Wall, One Size Does Not Fit All: The Need For Reform In America's Illegal Immigration Crisis

I was drawn to the topic of illegal immigration because my dad was raised on the Mexican-American border, where my grandparents still live. I have seen first-hand the impact that illegal immigration and the drugs that come with it have on a community. In addition to this, I chose illegal immigration because of the misconceptions surrounding it. Lastly, I chose this topic because it is a serious problem that must be solved.



ANSON ERNST EGGERSS

The E Is Not Enough: Why Explicit Music Poses A Threat To The Behavioral Development Of Children Under Thirteen

I was deejaying a party, and some children under 13 were repeatedly requesting songs with extremely inappropriate lyrics, especially for their age. It was so shocking to me that they even knew these songs. So I began to research the science behind explicit music's impact on the young mind, which further piqued my interest and led me to choose it as my thesis topic.

G. K. Chesterton Award Nominee



REESE PAYTON FERGUSON

In The Belly Of The Beast: Why Reform Is Necessary In The Meat Industry To Prevent Animal Abuse

There are many reasons why I chose to write my thesis on animal abuse in the meat market. For one, this is a very common subject in my household. My mom is a huge advocate for animals and their well-being. I've adopted the same passion as I have seen the issue growing in urgency. Everyone buys and eats meat, but few know what actually goes on behind closed doors. I want to expose that and inform people on the truth.



MACKENZIE JANE FITZGERALD

Aiming for the Wrong Target: How The Media's Attempt At Shedding Light On Mass Shootings Is Making The Problem Worse

I originally was going to do my thesis over abolishing automatic admissions into colleges, but after the El Paso shooting last August, I felt compelled to address mass shootings. I found out about that shooting (and many others) through Twitter, so I wanted to dive deeper into the media's role in mass shootings. It turned out to be a lot bigger than I had anticipated.



MACY KATE FLORA

Let's Have A Heart To Heart: Why The Organ Donation Program Should Be An Opt-Out One

I was inspired to write my thesis on the subject of organ donation when my dad had a kidney transplant. I was very intrigued by the process and grew interested in learning more about the system and all it entails. When I discovered the amount of lives lost due to organ failure while still on the waiting list, I knew something had to be done.



CATARINA ELISE FLORES

In The Almighty Dollar We Trust: Why Christians Should Not Embrace Current American Capitalism

The discussion of capitalism and its merits has been one that my family has had around the dinner table for a long time. I find American culture fascinating and love to challenge the common ideas that we as Americans have grown up believing. I think it is important to question all aspects of our society to determine if they truly do line up with the teachings of Jesus.

G. K. Chesterton Award Nominee



ZACHARY ALEXANDER FLY

I Speak For The Trees: Why The National Parks Needs To Have Its Budget Restored

I have always loved nature and being outdoors, so for my thesis, I wanted to do something that captured both.



GRACYN LAURA FREILING

Evil Or Ill? A Case For Keeping The Insanity Defense

While on a trip this summer, I saw an episode of Dateline about John Hinckley Jr.'s assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. This was my first exposure to both this historical event and the use of the insanity defense. The morality of this plea was an interesting controversy about which I wanted to learn more. After some research, I decided it would be a perfect topic for my thesis.

G. K. Chesterton Award Nominee



COLE MICHAEL FRITCHER

From Condemned To Redeemed: The Case For Restorative Justice

I discovered restorative justice and was very interested in it. The topic relates to my chosen field of criminal justice. Alternatives to imprisonment can help with the problems currently faced in our prison system. Mass incarceration and high recidivism rates negatively affect the community. I believe that restorative justice can have a positive impact on these problems and offer healing for the offender, the victim and the community.



CHARLES RIENALDO GARCIA III

Welcome To Generation P: Why The United States Government Should Designate Pornography As A Public Health Crisis For Minors

I believe pornography is an addiction that is taking hold of our youth. As a teenager growing up in the age of the internet, I have seen opinions change from the dangers of pornography to its acceptance and even its promotion in society. This issue has grown to be such a pandemic that government intervention is vital in order to shift the mentality of our generation.



JAYNE ISABELLA GOODMAN

They Aren't All Terrorists: Beyond The Stereotypes Of The Middle East

The spark was initially ignited when I read "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini. After I read the book, things about the Middle East kept popping up around me. I look back now and I can see that it was the Holy Spirit giving me a hunger to learn more about it. I don't know how God will continue to use this desire, but I know he has placed it on my heart. He is moving in the most incredible ways and I can't help but want to share it.

G. K. Chesterton Award Nominee



DAVID CHRISTOPHER GROTE

Never Leaving Neverland: How American Culture Facilitates Prolonged Adolescence

I wanted to do something that would be pertinent and encouraging to Americans. I realized that a lot of the difficulties revolving around American teenagers begin with how we are viewed in society. I wanted to try and alleviate the anxiety some parents and students are feeling about this time of life and show that the culture norm in no way has to be personally true.

G. K. Chesterton Award Nominee



BRADEN DAVIS HALL

Can Christians Appreciate A.R.T.? A Look Into The Ethics Of In-Vitro Fertilization And Coinciding Christian Morals

This has been a topic dear to my heart since I first heard about it when I was 11 years old. Since then, I have learned so much more about the topic and realized the shallowness of my original understanding. After learning more, I realized that IVF balances on the edge of numerous ethical issues, which is why I believe Christians should fully understand this topic.

G. K. Chesterton Award Nominee



LUKE ANTHONY HARDIN

High Tech High School: An Advocacy For Technological Advancement In The Private Classical School System

Due to my interest in computer science and technology in general, I have always been disappointed with Geneva's lack of technological advancement. I always knew classical education and technological advancement weren't mutually exclusive. I also strongly felt that the people like me, who wish to have the classical education but also go into fields such as computer science, had always been left out of the equation. So, here's my argument.



RICHARD VANCE HICKS

Don't You Worry 'Bout A Thing: Why Parents Should Not Monitor Their Children's Internet Usage

Parental oversight of children's internet usage is really prevalent in the world today. Parents are so protective of their children that they will go to any lengths for them. I think parents need to get their act together and trust their kids. I was also inspired with the various stories that people tell of their parents.



TREVOR LEIGHTON HIGGS

Blue Acres Is The Place To Be: Why We Should Farm Our Oceans

In my sophomore year I did a similar topic in my mini-thesis. I noticed that a topic like mine has not been done yet, so it encouraged me to choose it.



JOSEPH DONALD HOHNE

The Artist Is In The Room: Valuing The Church And Church Architecture

Ever since I was little, I was always fascinated by building things and I hope one day to be a custom home builder and learn from the architecture of churches to open my mind and come up with better ideas for houses.



EMMALEE BELLE JONAS

Seeing Red: The Dangers Of Artificial Food Dyes

I believe it matters what we put into our bodies. I would like to raise awareness for the dangerous ingredients in artificial food dyes and how these ingredients affect the population, especially children. I was raised eating an all-natural diet, so I have personal experience with this topic. I have seen and experienced the harmful outcomes of eating artificial food dyes.



CAMERON EDEN KIDD

What's My Problem? The Need To Increase Funding For Eating Disorder Research

Given how much we talk about mental health, especially with regard to teenagers, we don't discuss eating disorders nearly enough. At Geneva, students frequently prioritize perfect performance over things like sleep and sustenance. A student predisposed to developing an eating disorder could easily fall into dangerous patterns when they believe their performance is inadequate. And yet we don't talk about these disorders. My goal is to begin an overdue conversation.



GAGE SCOTT KOHLER

Common Cents: Mandatory Financial Literacy Training For All High School Students

I chose to speak about financial literacy because it is not something we are taught in school, but is a skill we need in our everyday lives. After doing a little research, I was shocked at how little knowledge most Americans have when it comes to finance. I have a business-oriented mind. To me, if it doesn't make money, it doesn't make sense. This topic proved a natural fit for my interests and passions.



SARAH MARIE LEDOUX

Dysphoria Euphoria: Why Gender Alteration Interventions In Children Do More Harm Than Good

From a young age, neurology and psychology sparked my interest. These fields of study inspired me to write about transgenderism in children since it incorporates research of children's developing brains, along with their emotional state. Also, transgenderism is something I feel passionate about since it is a prevalent issue today, and has made diversion from God's truth an acceptable way of life.



GILLIAN ANNE LOFLIN

Hanging On By A Thread: Addressing The Faults Of The Fast Fashion Industry

As someone interested in fashion my whole life, I knew I wanted my topic to address a big problem in the apparel industry. With environmental concerns at an all-time high, “sustainability” is the buzzword on everyone’s mind and is a goal for most companies. Consumers are uninformed to the horrible things that happen during the making of their clothes behind the cover of good marketing.

G. K. Chesterton Award Nominee



JOSHUA ERNEST LOPEZ

Facing The Generations-Old Question: Why Job Incentives Are More Beneficial Than Current After-School Programs

As my mom and I constantly discuss the problem of poverty, I always get frustrated at the lack of a successful solution. I saw this as an opportunity to do more extensive research on something about which I actually cared. I am very thankful now for my decision because I actually enjoy the work I am doing and am passionate about the subject matter!



NATHAN RICHARD MASSO

Going Green: The Case For Federal Legalization Of Medicinal Marijuana

Many in our society are undereducated on the plethora of positive uses that medicinal marijuana has to offer and only view the plant with its associated stigmas. I chose this topic to present the way medicinal marijuana should be viewed.



EASTON DENVER MYRICK

Metaphysical Education: A Call For Reform In Schools' Approach To Mental Health

I believe those who suffer from mental illnesses are mistreated, falsely viewed and most importantly, not given the resources they need to help themselves.



JOSHUA THOMAS NATE

Super Soldiers: The Case For Steroid Use In The Military

I'm an athlete and wanted to pursue something with sports, as well as my field of study — Physical Therapy. One of my coaches prompted me to look into military debates, and I latched onto the idea of steroid usage. I thought this would be an interesting and unique area to research and address.



RUSSEL CUADERNO NAVARRO

Keep Your Soul But Sell Your Voice: Addressing The Culture Of Silence

I want people to understand how our culture continues to lose individualism. I want to address that today's culture isn't as free or open as a lot of people think it is. I believe we as a society have grown more sensitive of opinions and have created a social mob when it comes to protection of people's feelings over their freedoms.



KADE SAMUEL NICHOLLS

Hoops, They Did It Again! Why The NBA Should Loosen The Restrictions On Their No-Trade Clause

I've always loved sports and I wanted to choose something that had to do with it. Keeping up with the latest news and rumors has always been a hobby of mine. I grew up watching NBA basketball games and looked up to lots of players, and learning about their contracts made me realize the importance of the No-Trade Clause.



NOAH KURTIS NILSSON

More Parties In The USA: A Case For Coalition Government

At the time that I chose this topic, division, witch-hunts and blame games were at an all-time high in Washington. I went through high school watching our country tear herself apart on a small scale, and if nothing is done, it will eventually happen on a larger scale. I believe that we are lacking representation of ideas in government, and more parties can provide this vital representation.



JOHN ROBERT O'QUINN

Domo Arigato, Mr. Roboto: Why Automation And Artificial Intelligence Will Be Beneficial

I was originally drawn to how the developing technology of automation and artificial intelligence will affect our country because I was curious to see how far the technology would progress, and how it would affect our daily lives. I heard many forebodings about the subject, and wanted to know if I, too, should be concerned for our future.



NATALYA LAUREN PEDRAZA

The Battle Between Life And Death: Potential Deportation Of Medically Vulnerable Migrants

I came across an article describing the fears that immigrants from around the world face when they receive treatment in the United States. But due to recent changes, they run the risk of being deported and discontinuing treatment. This weighs heavy on my heart because we all have family or friends who are blessed enough to receive medical treatment. However, we must open our eyes and our hearts to others around the world also needing life-saving treatment.



CORLEY ANN PETRIE

Taking The Stand: Why The U.S. Supreme Court Needs Amending

I spent last summer working as an intern for Judge Garcia Marmolejo on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. This internship instilled in me a love for the government and the court system. After a lot of research, I became intrigued by the Supreme Court and created my topic after learning about some controversies that surround the Supreme Court.

G. K. Chesterton Award Nominee



BROOKE LEE RADIGAN

Pretty Please With Chemicals On Top: A Call For Regulation Of Harmful Chemicals In Our Food

Food is a necessity and a major part of our everyday lives. I believe that we should not be consuming large amounts of additives and chemicals which are known to be harmful to us and that an initiative should be taken to improve our foods for the betterment of every individual's health.



SETH NOBLE RAMSEY

A Public Left High And Dry: The Case To Eradicate Local News Deserts

We are now starting to live in a time where national politics are becoming the main topic of discussion and debate while other local and regional topics and issues are starting to fade away — and with them our communities and way of life. The drought of local news leaves our communities uninformed and isolated on the homefront.



TRAVIS KANE RATTERREE

Time's Up: Time To Cancel Cancel Culture

In considering topics, I wanted to talk about something controversial in America right now, and I wanted to present something to the audience that would invest in them emotionally and inspire them to learn more. Also, I really wanted to examine why something so wrong is so popular.



EVAN MATTHEW SCHAEFER

False Premise, False Promise: Why Medicare For All Should Not Be Implemented As Law In The United States

With my family's experience in the health and medicine industry, I have chosen to shine some light on the fact that plans which sound good may not actually be good for the country and the culture. Politicians are revolutionizing healthcare and it's our job to provide the best solutions possible — not necessarily what Washington prefers.



SAMANTHA BROOKE SECOR

Guns Don't Kill People, People Kill People: Why The 2nd Amendment Protects Assault Rifle Ownership

For as long as I can remember, guns have been a part of my life. In my family, we started with a Red Rider BB gun and worked our way up. When the assault rifles debate became a recurring topic on the news, it caught my interest. I decided to dive deeper into the reasons behind the ban and prove to others and to myself why they should be kept.



BRANDON CARL STRICKLAND

Music Of Truth: A Call For More Theologically Correct Worship Music

How we worship matters, and when we give thought to the importance of the words we offer up to God, He is honored and we are blessed. I wanted to use this platform to exhort our churches and church-goers to support theologically sound worship music.



ELISE GABRIELE VALDEZ

Reaching The Ultimate Light: Parents Are Justified In Refusing Extraordinary Medical Treatment For Their Child

I wanted to share a story that is extremely personal and carries a powerful message. The medical field has always fascinated me, and I am privileged to have the opportunity to speak about End-of-Life Care and the tricky medical ethics it entails. I want to portray a side of the medical field about which many people are completely unaware.



MARGARET ANNETTE VIÑA

X + Why: The United States Needs To Reform Its Math Programs

Math is my favorite subject. In fact, I spent part of my junior year tutoring my classmates and several middle schoolers. The phrase I would always hear them say is, “I’m just not good at math.” And those few words really made me think. I wanted to prove to them that it is possible. Through my research, I discovered the problems created by schools in America and chose to use my thesis work to advocate for change in this critical component of our future.



CHARLOTTE GLENN WALKER

Boy Bashers: Calling Out The New Bully On The Block

As a fairly laid-back person, few things anger me, but this topic is one that has continually intrigued and aggravated me. Having grown up with a brother and close guy friends, I’ve personally witnessed girls mistreat them, and the double standard that results. Once I realized what a growing phenomenon it is in our culture, and one no one seems to acknowledge, I decided to address it through my thesis.

G. K. Chesterton Award Nominee

NOTES

CLASS OF



of 2020



PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

A Geneva graduate is a disciple of Jesus Christ, exhibiting excellence, passion, and integrity as he leads for Christ's cause in the world. He is a critical, logical thinker, able to discern absolute truth from cultural trends and philosophies.

As one who loves the Lord with all his mind, the Geneva graduate will be a lover of learning, and have the ability to grasp new ideas throughout his lifetime in pursuit of truth. These qualities, clothed in humility, create a foundation that will enable him to present engagingly articulate and persuasively winsome arguments.

A Geneva graduate honors God's image within himself and thus, is interested in all people because of God's interest and image in them. The classical education and biblical worldview gained at Geneva will equip the graduate to exhibit vocational excellence to the glory of God.





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